

A Skye Terrier primer
for breeders,
fanciers,
judges.



written by
Sandra Goose Allen
Judges Education Coordinator



presented



Skye Terrier Club of America

Mrs. Sandra Goose Allen
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Dear Judge:

There is an old proverb that states, "Tell me, I may forget. Teach me, I'll remember. Involve me, and I'll understand." We hope the enclosed information on the Skye Terrier will prove to be invaluable.

Enclosed you will find a list of Skye Terrier mentors who are long-time breeders and exhibitors. They will be pleased to arrange a "study visit" in order to assist you in your Study in Depth of the Skye Terrier. We urge you to see and examine as many Skye Terriers as possible. The entire membership is at your disposal.

If you have any additional questions or comments on the usefulness of the enclosed material, please feel free to contact me at the above address, or by phone.

Sincerely,



Sandra Goose Allen
Chairperson

Mentor list

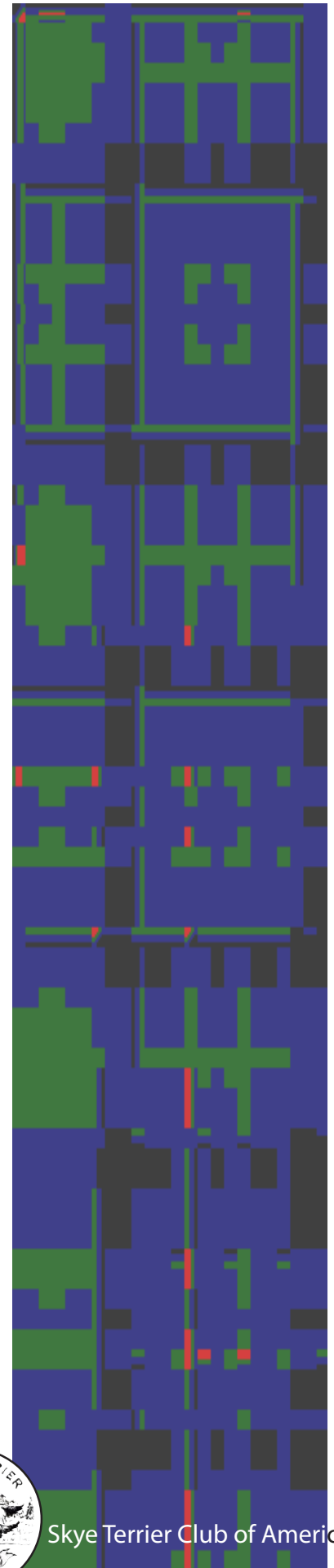
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Skye Terrier Club of America

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The essence of the Skye Terrier

The Skye Terrier dog breed has typical terrier characteristics. People who are best for them are those who share their own qualities: reserved and calm. They also tend to bond with only one person and will be warm to a few. These traits make the Skye Terrier seem unsociable to many. Neither force nor bribery will win their affection. It will have to be earned by being consistent and establishing firm boundaries that are set with a gentle hand. They do not require much exercise and this makes them ideal in an urban home.



Historical background— breed history

“Love without shame and devotion without limit”... what better way to describe the Skye Terrier? With exceptional personality, fierce loyalties, cool and collected aggressiveness, a pleasing, highly socialized disposition, this ancient terrier has a small but appropriately devoted following around the world.

Background and evolution

The origin of the Skye Terrier, known to have been in existence for about four centuries, is traced to the Scottish Isle of Skye, or the ‘Misty Isle.’ Skye is known for mountains shrouded in clouds. It is 48 miles long, no more than 5 miles wide, and is one of the Hebrides Islands. Rock strewn, wind-swept, and often misty, you’ll find Skye on the Atlantic coast of the romantic Scottish Highlands.

From their beginnings, the tough Highlanders kept as their working dogs wiry, active little terriers of nondescript appearance, but of great hardiness and immense courage.



“Love
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without
limit”

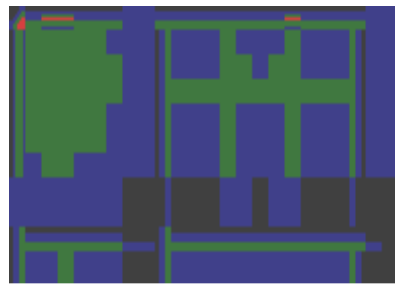
It was this dog's duty to follow the scent of vermin, and then, by squeezing through narrow spaces, balancing upon ledges, and leaping from rock to rock, to guide his master toward their quarry— often fox, badger, otter or weasel. The terrier cornered and fought the vermin alone, sometimes underground, unseen and unaided. So great was this little dog's courage and tenacity of purpose that the prey inevitably found itself outmaneuvered. Thus the 'Highland Working Terrier' earned both his keep and the respect of the tough Highlanders as well.

These scrappy little dogs had thick, hard, rather long and shaggy, weather resistant double coats, and are thought by some to be, if not the actual dogs, at least the ancestors of many of the Scottish terrier breeds. At least four breeds are directly descended from him: the Aberdeen Terrier, now known as the Scottish Terrier; the West Highland White; the Skye Terrier; and the now extinct Ryle.

It is interesting to note how the climate of Scotland and the Scottish Isles is reflected in the coat of the Skye. The need for protection from the cold and wet resulted in an outer covering of hair and an inner coat of short wool. The advantage of the outer coat is to throw off the rain and sleet, while the inner coat, while excluding wet, also provides warmth. The coat of the Skye was also a coat of armor, providing some semblance of protection from the teeth of the adversaries.

Because the chief end of his existence was to go to ground, the Skye was bred with short legs. In fact, the Skye is the longest and lowest of all terriers, and is therefore better adapted to do the work of a terrier than any other. The advantage of going to ground with a shortlegged dog over a longer legged one is that shorter legs allow the former to work in a natural position, while the latter must crouch and thus, lose power. The Skye's long, low body is the heritage of the functions of the early breeding of the animal.

Not to be overlooked, of course, is strength. The flexible body of the Skye is complemented by a head of imposing strength and unlimited holding and punishing power. It should be noted that this is a distinctive feature of all of the north country terriers, since a dog with a strong head could effectively block a predator's escape from den or burrow.



Although some believe the Cairn Terrier evolved as a short-haired Skye, and that possibly the two are closely related, the Cairn is taller than the Skye, does not have as much hair, has a shorter body, less weight, and boasts a foxy facial expression. Actually, the Skye more closely resembles the Dandie Dinmont, except that the roach back of the Dandie Dinmont is a grave fault in the Skye Terrier. Most of the early Skyes were drop-eared and much smaller than the dogs of the present time. The head was not as large, nor the ears as feathered as in Skyes today. The weight averaged between ten and eighteen pounds.

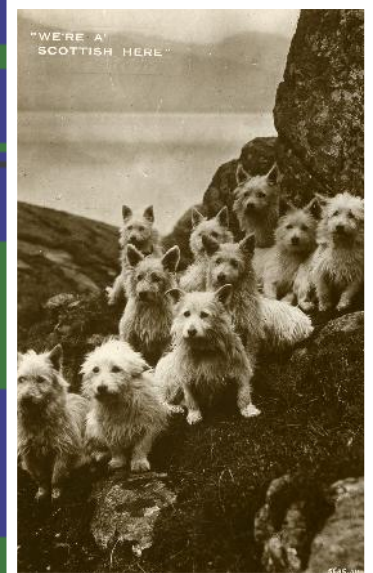
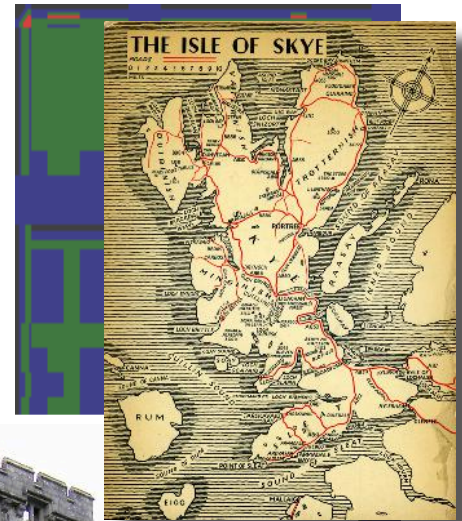
Historical information

According to early references, Lady MacDonald of Armadale Castle in Sleat, on the southernmost tip of the Isle of Skye, owned an extraordinarily handsome strain of Skye Terrier. Breed mythology states that this line was descended from a cross of native Scottish Terriers with some Spanish white dogs – probably of Maltese origins which had survived the wrecks of ships from the Spanish Armada. As far as this particular strain is concerned, great care appears to have been taken to keep it pure and distinct from the breed common to the island. It is interesting to note that the dogs of this strain are described as having long, lank hair, almost trailing to the ground. The strength of this description probably indicates that the modern Skye evolved around 1588 or soon thereafter; with refinements following over the years. The early Skyes were aristocrats, in that they belonged only to the Lairds and were not kept by cottagers. These hardy little working dogs were held in high esteem.

The next reference appears in 1828, when it is recorded that Skye Terriers were found in abundance on the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Mull. White Skyes were particularly prized because they could be seen more readily at night. In 1837, Lady Fanny Cowper, then the Countess of Jocelyn, had a particularly beautiful fawn bitch that was looked upon as a model in her kennel on the Isle of Wight.

Shortly after 1840 the breed became very popular during the reign of Queen Victoria. She owned many outstanding specimens, and many of her subjects followed her example. The Skye was introduced throughout Scotland and was firmly in place in drawing rooms of Victorian England by the 1850's.

Queen Victoria of England acquired her first Skye in 1839, and she was never without one for the rest of her life. As near as can be deter-





mined, her first was the drop-ear "Islay", followed by one given to Her Majesty by a Mr. Pratt. From these, others were successfully bred in the Royal Kennels. One of these, "Cairnach", was a special favorite with the Queen.

Later, Her Majesty owned "Diana of Aldroalloch", bred by Rev. David Doblin. Diana was said to have had the longest pedigree of any dog of any breed. After that, she had "Rona II", a gift from the Rev. Dr. Rosslyn Bruce. "Rona II" is immortalized in the well-known picture of Her Majesty by William Nicholson.

Queen Victoria at one time selected a Skye puppy as best in a litter from which the breeder had offered her first choice. Some time later the Skye was exhibited for Her Majesty. Unfortunately, the original breeder was also represented, showing a littermate. The littermate won over the Queen's Skye. Understandably, the breeder was deeply upset, and he rushed a message to the Queen, offering to switch the two dogs with the Queen. The Queen, loyal to her Skye, replied that she would not dream of making such a trade, for quite obviously her dog was the better and the judge simply did not know the breed or he would have recognized this fact.

The breed then became very popular, especially among the nobility. The dogs were even featured in paintings by Sir Edwin Landseer. Since then the breed's popularity has declined, although many still remain faithful to this unique dog.

It is noteworthy that, until about 1890, a majority of the Skye Terriers were of the drop-eared variety. From 1890 on, erect ears became more popular, almost displacing drop-ears. There has never been a real reason for this, and it will remain one of those things which cannot be understood.



Perhaps it was an accident, but more likely it was a freak of the fancy. From 1890 to 1905, the majority of judges gave the preference to a dog with erect ears. At shows where a complete classification was provided, the two varieties competed separately.

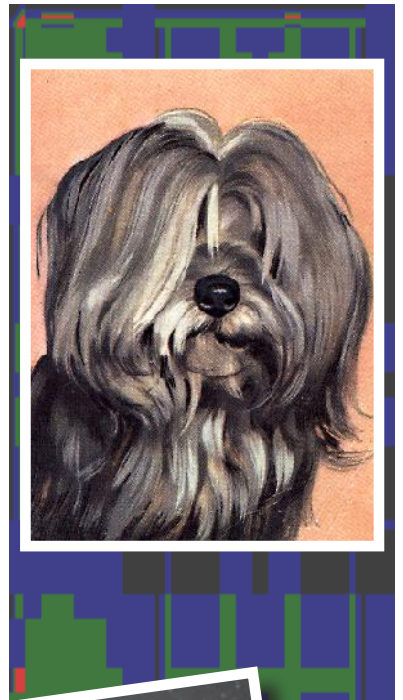
At the end of the nineteenth century, the most famous of all kennels was founded by the late Mrs. Hughes, of Wolverley. She had the distinction of winning three times the prize for Champion of Champions with "Wolverley Roy", Wolverley Jock", and Wolverley Duchess", all Skyes of her own breeding. "Wolverley Duchess" was the first of the trio to win this supreme triumph at the Ladies' Kennel Association Show of 1896. By command, Mrs. Hughes was presented to the Princess of Wales (afterwards Queen Alexandra.)

In 1900 at the Ladies' Kennel Association Show, Mrs. Hughes with her team, was again brought before the Princess of Wales, for special recognition as owner of the most perfect kennel of Skyes in existence at that time. At that show there were separate classes for Skyes under 20 pounds and over 20 pounds in weight. Winning Skyes are nearer 35 pounds than 20 nowadays.

But even more distinction was in store for Mrs. Hughes as the breeder of Ch. "Wolverley Chummie", acknowledged the best of all Skyes before or since. He was bought by Miss McCheane and shown by her, winning 31 Championships. He was never beaten. At his death in 1911 his body was presented to the Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road, London, and could be seen there until the museum was destroyed by bombing in World War II.

Whether or not a Skye is owned by royalty makes no difference. One of the Skye's greatest attributes is his devoted attention to his owner(s) whatever their station in life.

In the late 1850's, Jock Gray lived on a Midlothian estate. Each Wednesday, this farmer, like all his neighbors, visited the market in Edinburgh, accompanied by his small, long, shaggy Skye Terrier, Bobby. It was Gray's custom, when the castle gun boomed the hour of one, to go to a small but well-known restaurant called Traill's Dining Room, situated a block from Greyfriars' Churchyard. Here they enjoyed the noonday repast, Gray his Scottish food, and Bobby a bun, followed by a scone. In 1858 Gray



died and was buried in the Greyfriars' Cemetery. On the third day after the funeral and just at the time the gun of the castle echoed its signal, the noonday diners at Traill's were startled to see a disheveled Bobby, head down and tail dragging, enter the front door and approach the owner, who compassionately gave him a bun. Bobby immediately turned and ran out of the restaurant with his meal in his mouth.

He repeated this for several days and curious customers finally followed him and found that each day he would return to his master's grave and would not leave, regardless of threats or cajolery. Only the pangs of hunger forced a short leave of absence to search for food. This continued until Bobby's death in 1872.

Following Bobby's death, a statue was erected to his memory in the city of Edinburgh as *a tribute to love without shame, and devotion without limit*. It can be seen there today. In 1912 Mrs. E. Atkinson put the touching story on paper, and in 1961 the tale was made into a heart-tugging motion picture which has been enjoyed by young and old, and especially by lovers of Skye Terriers.

Skys were one of the foundation breeds of the American Kennel Club.

The Breed in England

The Skye was first exhibited in 1860 at the Birmingham show under the broad classification of Scottish Terrier. One of the winners was called a White Skye, and another was listed as an imported Skye. In 1861 at Manchester there was included a classification for the Skye Terrier, together with other classes for the Scotch Terrier. Most shows after this time included the Skye as a separate breed and separate from the general term of Scotch Terrier. In the first edition of Stonehenge, the Skye is one of the four terriers listed as distinct breeds.

Soon after 1870 an association was formed and published the first "Standard of Perfection of the Skye". Unfortunately, the period was torn by three separate and distinct groups, all having slightly different ideas of the true Skye. Fortunately the classes for Skye Terrier were well filled at these early shows, whatever the differences of opinion as to the value and excellence of such animals. In 1862, for example, many of the shows had over sixty entries. This continued through the next two decades. There was a marked drop in entries at the various shows. From 1898 to 1900, Scottish shows had a favorable return, although the average per class was not equal to what it had been before there were so many subdivisions.



Walt Disney's movie, *Greyfriars Bobby* featured the loyal Skye Terrier, Bobby.



During World War I, breeding in England came almost to a standstill. However, during the late twenties and early thirties the breed regained some of its former popularity, at least at the shows. It was during this period that Merrymount Kennels came to the front. Many good specimens of the breed were exported to the United States and Canada until World War II, when breeding was seriously curtailed in England. Following the second World War, the banner was ably carried by such names as Merrymount, Faygate, Meerend, Rhosneiger, Douce, and many others.

The Breed in the United States

Skys came to the United States during the last quarter of the 19th century. The first Skye registered was Romach, whelped in 1884 and registered in 1887 by Malzeland Kennels. Among the exhibitors just prior to the turn of the century were Mr. W.P. Sanderson, Mr. Robert McLelland, Mr. Robert Sewell, Mr. A.W. Powers, Mr. M.H. Cryer, Mr. S.S. Howland, and Mr. F.W. Flint.

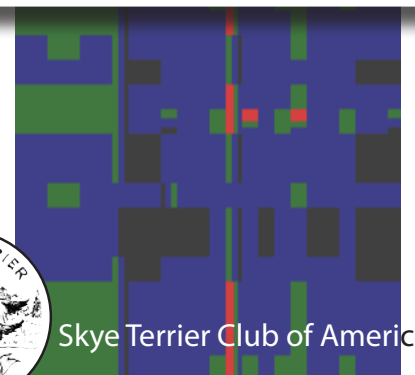
In 1904, Mrs. R.P. Adams, then Miss Marjorie Townsend, received her first Skye. This was the beginning of what was to become Talisker Kennels on whose bloodlines many of the present day kennels are established. Mrs. Adams imported many excellent specimens of the breed from England, Austria, and Czechoslovakia.

During the late 1920's and 1930's many new names joined the ranks of the Skye. The Stillmans, Mrs. Edward Spencer, Iradell, Glamoor, High Time, Merrybrac, Graecroft, Stonebrae, Letts Dhu, and Abacus all made their places known in the Skye world during the pre-World War II era. These too have left their mark on the Skyes of today.

The Skye Terrier Club of America was formed in 1938, the late Mrs. Adele Goodman of Glamoor fame was one of the charter members. The club was organized with slightly under twenty members. Today it boasts a membership of more than 150.

Conclusion

If you have ever been owned by a Skye, and if you have loved and cared for him well and truly, then you will know the proud heart of a wee Highland warrior, ever ready for adventure, ever ready to love you, and both with his whole honorable being.



Official Standard for the SKYE TERRIER published by the American Kennel Club

General Appearance—The Skye Terrier is a dog of style, elegance and dignity: agile and strong with sturdy bone and hard muscle. Long, low and level—he is twice as long as he is high—he is covered with a profuse coat that falls straight down either side of the body over oval-shaped ribs. The hair well feathered on the head veils forehead and eyes to serve as protection from brush and briar as well as amid serious encounters with other animals. He stands with head high and long tail hanging and moves with a seemingly effortless gait. He is strong in body, quarter and jaw.

Size, Proportion, Substance— **Size**—The ideal shoulder height for dogs is 10 inches and bitches 9½ inches. Based on these heights a 10 inch dog measured from chest bone over tail at rump should be 20 inches. A slightly higher or lower dog of either sex is acceptable. Dogs 9 inches or less and bitches 8½ inches or less at the withers are to be penalized. **Proportion**—The ideal ratio of body length to shoulder height is 2 to 1, which is considered the correct proportion. **Substance**—Solidly built, full of strength and quality without being coarse. Bone is substantial.

Head—Long and powerful, strength being deemed more important than extreme length.

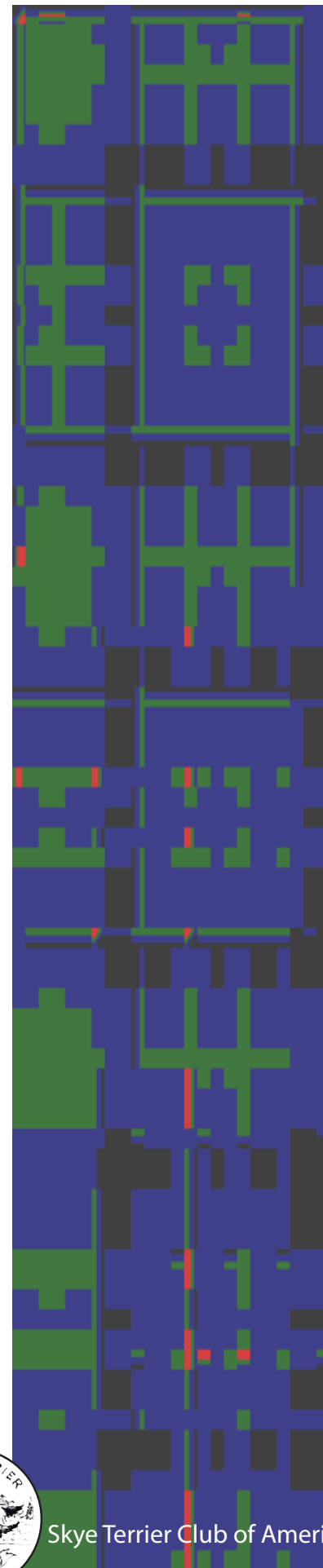
Eyes brown, preferably dark brown, medium in size, close-set and alight with life and intelligence. **Ears** symmetrical and gracefully feathered. They may be carried prick or drop. If prick, they are medium in size, placed high on the skull, erect at their outer edges, and slightly wider apart at the peak than at the skull. Drop ears, somewhat larger in size and set lower, hang flat against the skull.

Moderate width at the back of the skull tapers gradually to a strong muzzle. The stop is slight. The dark muzzle is just moderately full as opposed to snipy. Powerful and absolutely true jaws. The nose is always black. A Dudley, flesh-colored or brown nose shall disqualify. Mouth with the incisor teeth closing level, or with upper teeth slightly overlapping the lower.

Neck, Topline, Body—**Neck**—Long and gracefully arched, carried high and proudly. The backline is level.

Body pre-eminently long and low, the chest deep, with oval-shaped ribs. The sides appear flattish due to the straight falling and profuse coat.

Tail long and well feathered. When hanging, its upper section is pendulous, following the line of the rump, its lower section thrown back in a moderate arc without twist or curl. When raised, its height makes



it appear a prolongation of the backline. Though not to be preferred, the tail is sometimes carried high when the dog is excited or angry. When such carriage arises from emotion only, it is permissible. But the tail should not be constantly carried above the level of the back or hang limp.

Forequarters—Shoulders well laid back, with tight placement of shoulder blades at the withers and elbows should fit closely to the sides and be neither loose nor tied. Forearm should curve slightly around the chest. Legs short, muscular and straight as possible. “Straight as possible” means straight as soundness and chest will permit, it does not mean “Terrier straight.”

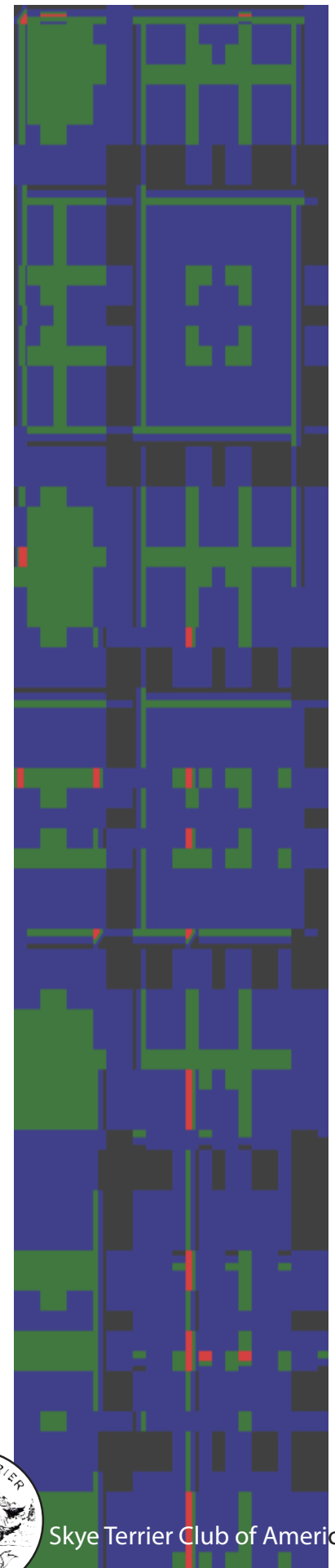
Feet—Large hare-feet preferably pointing forward, the pads thick and nails strong and preferably black.

Hindquarters—Strong, full, well developed and well angulated. Legs short, muscular and straight when viewed from behind. Feet as in front.

Coat—Double. Undercoat short, close, soft and woolly. Outer coat hard, straight and flat. 5½ inches long without extra credit granted for greater length. The body coat hangs straight down each side, parting from head to tail. The head hair, which may be shorter, veils forehead and eyes and forms a moderate beard and apron. The long feathering on the ears falls straight down from the tips and outer edges, surrounding the ears like a fringe and outlining their shape. The ends of the hair should mingle with the coat of the neck. Tail well feathered.

Color— The coat must be of one over-all color at the skin but may be of varying shades of the same color in the full coat, which may be black, blue, dark or light grey, silver platinum, fawn or cream. The dog must have no distinctive markings except for the desirable black points of ears, muzzle and tip of tail, all of which points are preferably dark even to black. The shade of head and legs should approximate that of the body. There must be no trace of pattern, design or clear-cut color variations, with the exception of the breed’s only permissible white which occasionally exists on the chest not exceeding 2 inches in diameter.

The puppy coat may be very different in color from the adult coat. Therefore, as it is growing and clearing, wide variations of color may occur; consequently, this is permissible in dogs under 18 months of age. However, even in puppies there must be no trace of pattern, design, or clear-cut variations with the exception of the black band encircling the body coat of the creme colored dog, and the only permissible white which, as in the adult dog, occasionally exists on the chest not exceeding 2 inches in diameter.

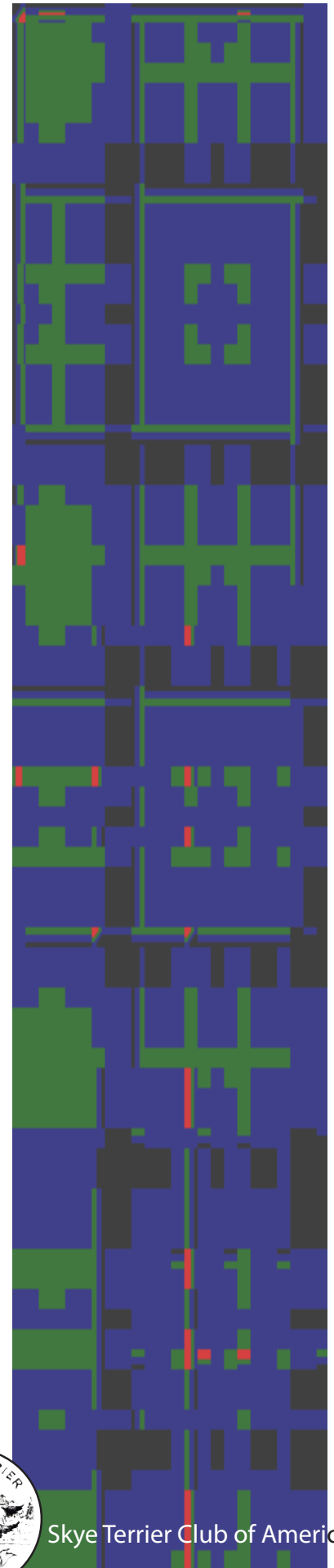


Gait—The legs proceed straight forward when traveling. When approaching, the forelegs form a continuation of the straight line of the front. The feet being the same distance apart as the elbows. The principal propelling power is furnished by the back legs which travel straight forward. Forelegs should move well forward, without too much lift. The whole movement may be termed free, active and effortless and give a more or less fluid picture.

Temperament—That of the typical working terrier capable of overtaking game and going to ground, displaying stamina, courage, strength and agility. Fearless, good-tempered, loyal and canny, he is friendly and gay with those he knows and reserved and cautious with strangers.

DISQUALIFICATION— A Dudley, flesh-colored or brown nose shall disqualify.

AKC Skye Terrier Standard
Approved February 10, 1990
Effective March 28, 1990
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the Skye Terrier— standard visualization



HEAD long, powerful, strength not sacrificed for extreme length. Skull, moderately wide at back tapering to dark, moderately full muzzle.

EARS may be prick or drop. **PRICK:** medium size: high on skull; erect at outer edges; slightly wider apart at peak than skull. **DROP:** size somewhat larger; set lower; hang flat against skull; gracefully feathered.

STOP slight.
EYES medium size; brown, dark preferred; close set.

NECK long; gracefully arched; carriage high, proud.

JAWS powerful; teeth level, or upper teeth slightly overlapping lower.

SHOULDERS well laid-back, tight placement of blades at withers.

RIBS oval shaped; sides appear flat due to coat.

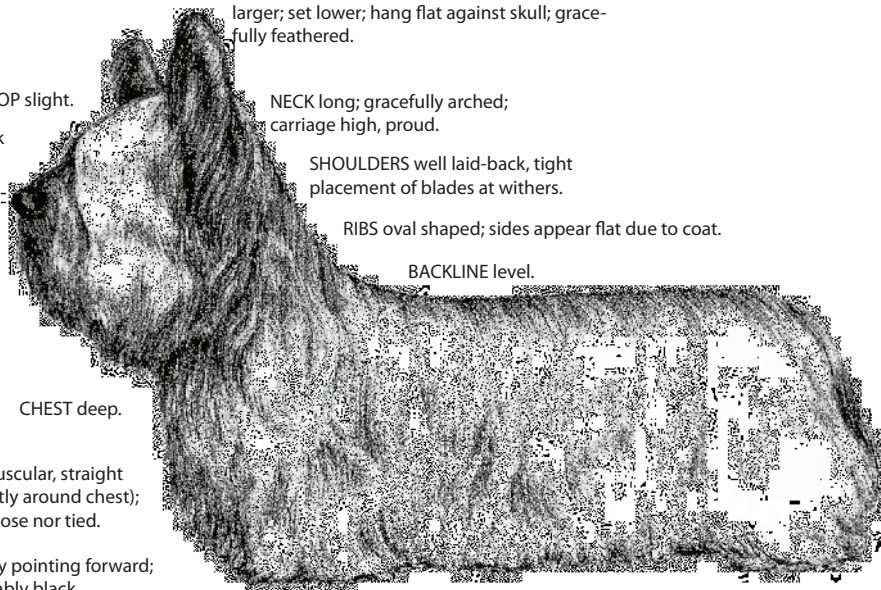
BACKLINE level.

TAIL long, well-feathered; upper section pendulous following rump lines when hanging; lower section thrown back in moderate arc without twist or curl. Raised, tail is prolongation of backline, sometimes carried high when excited or angry (no penalty when matter of spirit.)

FOREQUARTERS: legs short, muscular, straight as possible (should curve slightly around chest); elbows close to side, neither loose nor tied.

HINDQUARTERS strong, full, well-developed, well-angulated; legs short, muscular, straight (viewed from rear.)

FEET large; hare feet; preferably pointing forward; pads thick; nails strong, preferably black.



SIZE: Dogs- 10" at shoulder' length (chest bone over tail at rump), 20"; head 8.5"; tail 9". Bitches- 9.5" at shoulder; length 19"; head 8". Ideal length to height ratio: 2 to 1. Slightly higher or lower, either sex, acceptable if other dimensions are proportionate. Dogs 8" or less at withers and bitches 7" or less, to be penalized.

trace of pattern or design. White permissible only on chest, not exceeding 2" diameter. (Black band encircling body coat of cream dog under 18 mos. of age not to be penalized.)

APPEARANCE" Long, lank, low. Elegant, dignified, agile, strong. Covered with a profuse coat.

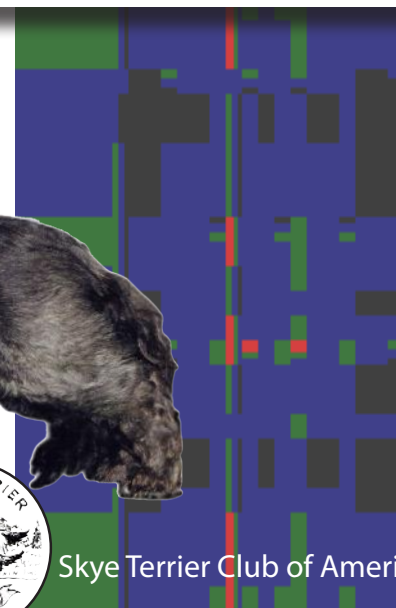
TEMPERAMENT gay, but reserved with strangers.

COLOR: One overall color of skin, but full coat may be varying shades of the same color—black, blue, dark, or light gray, silver platinum, fawn, cream. No

DOUBLE COAT: Undercoat short, close soft, wooly; outercoat hard, straight, flat; length—5.5" (no credit for greater length); body coat parted from head to tail; hangs straight down; head half may be shorter, sorter, veiling eyes; forms moderate beard and apron; ear feathering mingles with neck coat.

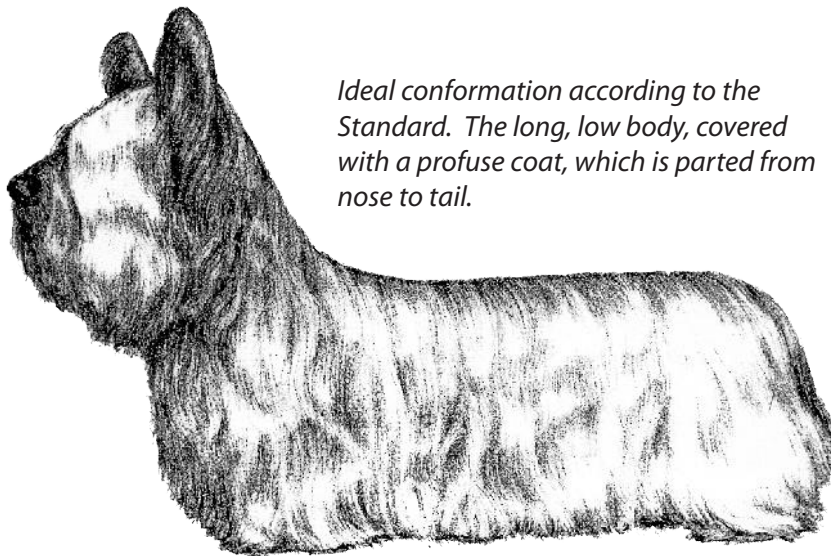
DISQUALIFICATION: Dudley, flesh-colored or brown nose.

Demonstration of 12 year old male Skye Terrier, shaved to illustrate correct structure.



The Standard discussed

The official standard for the breed as adopted by the Skye Terrier Club of America and approved by the American Kennel Club is typeset in red.



Ideal conformation according to the Standard. The long, low body, covered with a profuse coat, which is parted from nose to tail.

General Appearance

The Skye Terrier is a dog of style, elegance and dignity: agile and strong with sturdy bone and hard muscle. Long, low and level-he is twice as long as he is high-he is covered with a profuse coat that falls straight down either side of the body over oval-shaped ribs. The hair well feathered on the head veils forehead and eyes to serve as protection from brush and briar as well as amid serious encounters with other animals. He stands with head high and long tail hanging and moves with a seemingly effortless gait. He is strong in body, quarter and jaw.

An understanding of any breed begins with its standard. A standard according to the AKC is a depiction of the ideal specimen of each breed. They describe perfect type, structure, gait and temperament, information that describes the "ideal" dog.

The direction in which the coat is groomed is to accentuate length of body and elegance. The neck hair is brushed forward forming a shawl. The mid-body coat is brushed



straight down. The hair on the flanks and hind legs is brushed slightly backward, blending into and emphasizing the graceful backsweep of the tail. When the entire coat is brushed vertically, it accentuates height and minimizes body length.



Illustrations circa 1890

The head is held high, with the long, gently crested neck which insures elegance. The ears, well-feathered, are carried erect – for the prick eared variety. The dark eyes are not visible under the head furnishings. The muzzle is strong. The nose always black. The feathered tail (similar to that of a Setter) is carried down, sweeping back gracefully.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size—The ideal shoulder height for dogs is 10 inches and bitches 9½ inches. Based on these heights a 10 inch dog measured from chest bone over tail at rump should be 20 inches. A slightly higher or lower dog of either sex is acceptable. Dogs 9 inches or less and bitches 8½ inches or less at the withers are to be penalized.

It is important to keep in mind that Skyes are not slight, weedy, fine-boned dogs. They are substantial dogs which are strong in every respect. Bone is substantial without being coarse and the ribs are well sprung and loins are muscular and of good width. You might look at them as big dogs on short legs.

Bitches should be slightly smaller than dogs. While the Standard calls for a 10” dog as the ideal, slightly taller is acceptable provided the overall proportion is maintained.

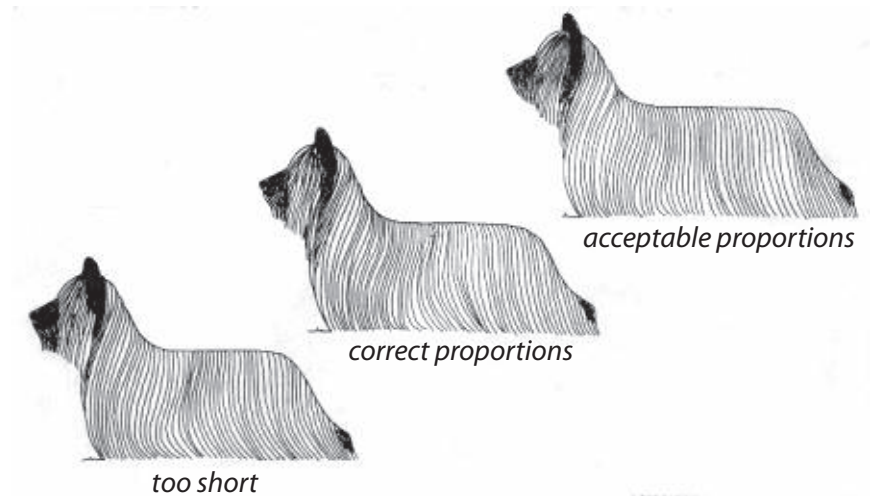


Proportion—The ideal ratio of body length to shoulder height is 2 to 1, which is considered the correct proportion.

A Skye who is other than the 2:1 desired proportion adversely changes the visual appeal of the balance of the dog.

Skyes slightly longer than the 2:1 ratio are acceptable provided relative proportion is not lost.

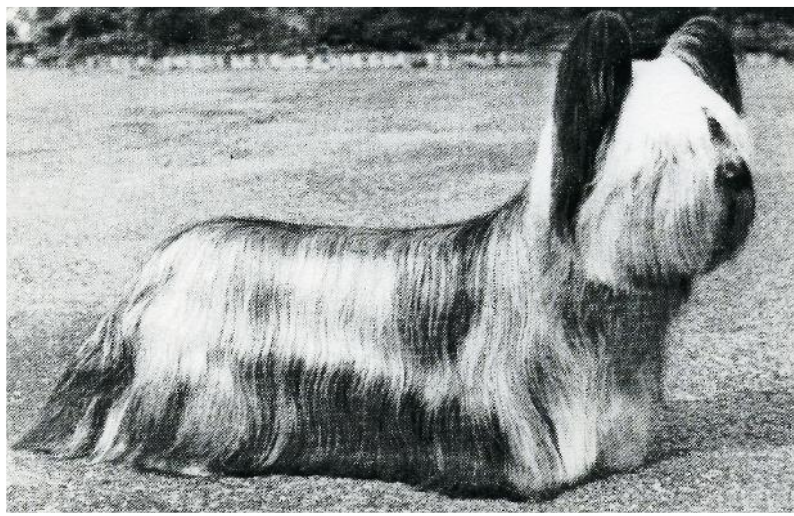
Skyes less than the 2:1 ratio are not correct.



Substance—Solidly built, full of strength and quality without being coarse. Bone is substantial.

A Skye must be substantial in bone with well sprung ribs and loins and are muscular.

Look at Skye Terriers as big dogs with short legs.



Head

Long and powerful, strength being deemed more important than extreme length.

The head should be long and powerful.

Parallel planes in the muzzle are important. Strength of muscle is important in the head.

The muzzle length should be equal to the length of the skull.

The head must be in direct overall proportion with the body.

Eyes

Brown, preferably dark brown, medium in size, close-set and alight with life and intelligence.

Round eyes are not acceptable.

Light or yellow colored eyes are not to the Standard.



Medium size, dark, close-set, alight with life and intelligence.

Correct eyes in shape and placement



Faulty round eyes, with its undesirable expression.



correct head – long and powerful



incorrect head – too short



faulty nose, snipy head

Ears

Symmetrical and gracefully feathered. They may be carried prick or drop. If prick, they are medium in size, placed high on the skull, erect at their outer edges, and slightly wider apart at the peak than at the skull. Drop ears, somewhat larger in size and set lower, hang flat against the skull.



Ears are pricked or drop. Black and set high. When pricked, they should be high on the head and erect at the outer edges. When dropped, they should be larger and lie flat against the skull. Ears should be well feathered.

Drop ears should be longer and lower set than prick ears. Ears should be symmetrical.



correct—prick ear



correct drop ear—hangs flat against skull



faulty—wide-set ears



faulty—semi-prick soft ear

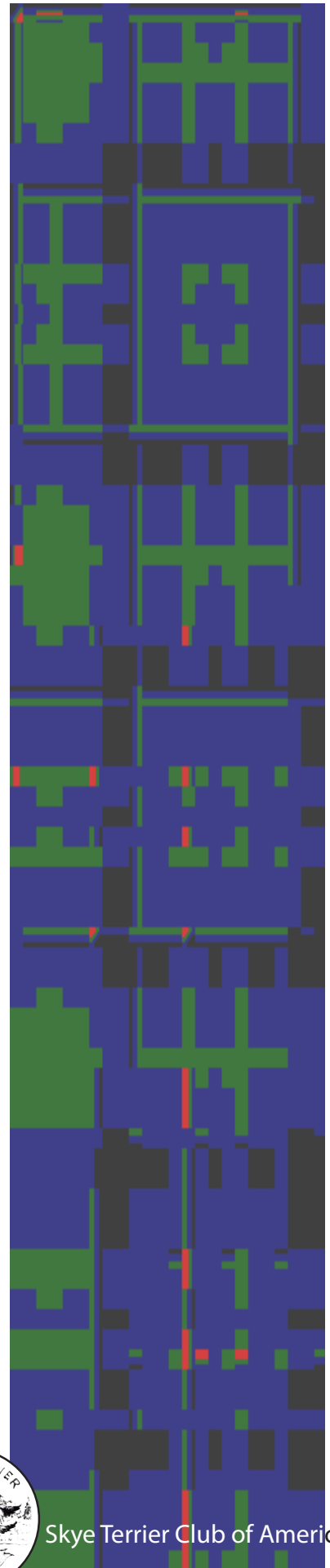


faulty— not symmetrical

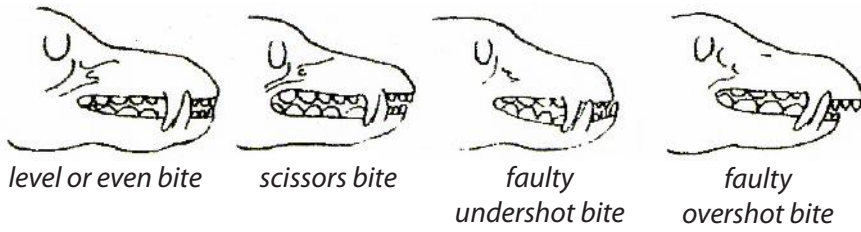


faulty—leather falls out to side/rose ears

Moderate width at the back of the skull tapers gradually to a strong muzzle. The stop is slight. The dark muzzle is just moderately full as opposed to snipy.



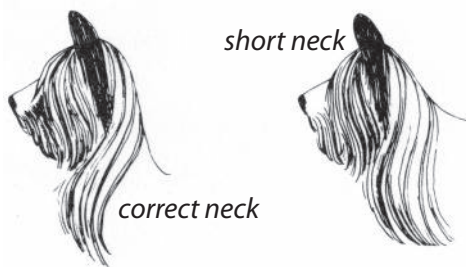
Powerful and absolutely true jaws. The nose is always black. A Dudley, flesh-colored or brown nose shall disqualify. Mouth with the incisor teeth closing level, or with upper teeth slightly overlapping the lower.



Either level or scissors bite are acceptable.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck—Long and gracefully arched, carried high and proudly. The backline is level.



The neck should be long and arched. The head should be carried high and proudly. A long, gently crested neck is preferred.



Body—Pre-eminently long and low, the chest deep, with oval-shaped ribs. The sides appear flattish due to the straight falling and profuse coat.



The length of body is twice the height.

A deep chest, slightly curved forearms and short muscular body are essential.

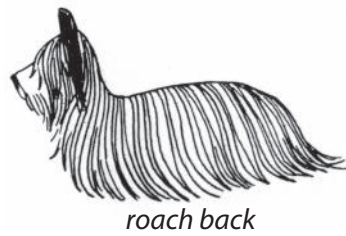
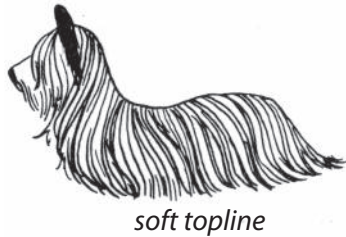
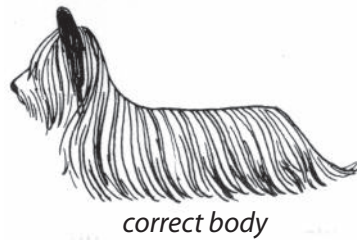
The shoulders should be well laid back at 45 degrees.

The rib cage should be oval.
The topline should be level.

It has a level back and its straight-falling coat makes it appear flat from the side.

Deep oval chest.

Tail- long and well feathered. When hanging, its upper section is pendulous, following the line of the rump, its lower section thrown back in a moderate arc without twist or curl. When raised, its height makes it appear a prolongation of the backline. Though not to be preferred, the tail is sometimes carried high when the dog is excited or angry. When such carriage arises from emotion only, it is permissible. But the tail should not be constantly carried above the level of the back or hang limp.



Tail is long, well and gracefully feathered. Carried straight or hanging.

When upright, the tail should be an elongation of the body.

Trimming under the the tail and feet are permitted.

The tail must be free of kinks.

Forequarters

Shoulders well laid back, with tight placement of shoulder blades at the withers and elbows should fit closely to the sides and be neither loose nor tied. Forearm should curve slightly around the chest. Legs short, muscular and straight as possible. "Straight as possible" means straight as soundness and chest will permit, it does not mean "Terrier straight."

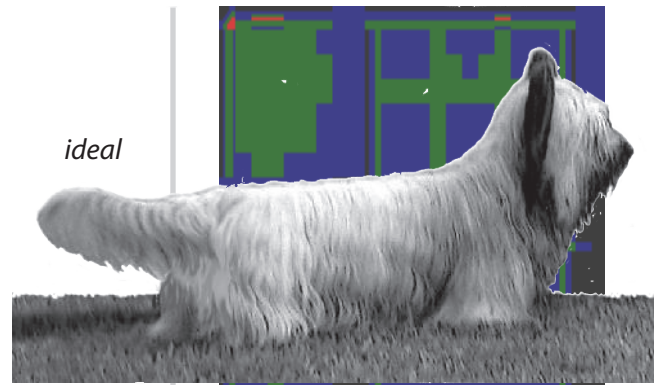
Forelegs should be in keeping with the front assembly.

The upper arm should be set well back.

The elbows should be set closely to the body.

Forelegs should move forward in a straight line with the rear moving in the same plane as the forelegs.

The upper arm should be set well back.



ideal



acceptable



faulty



correct forefront



faulty out-at-the-elbows front



faulty too tight in front



Feet—Large hare-feet preferably pointing forward, the pads thick and nails strong and preferably black.



The feet should point straight ahead. A slight toeing out is acceptable. An east/west front is a fault.

The front feet should be larger than the hind feet.

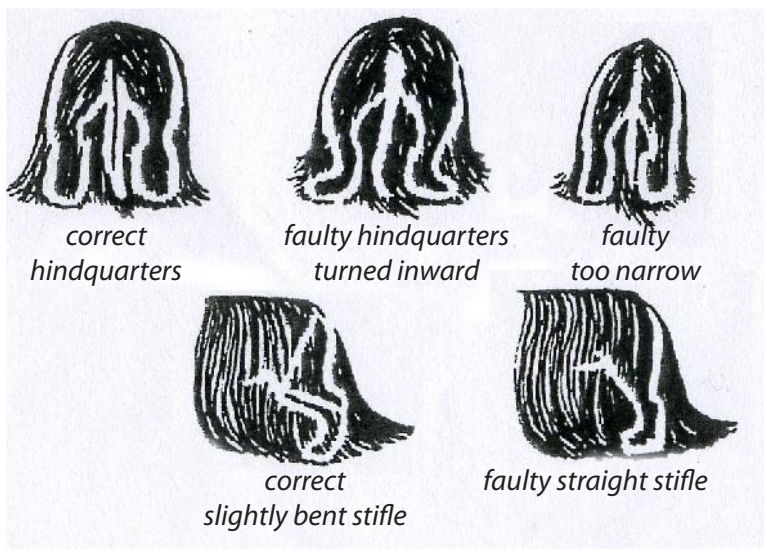
The paws should have thick pads and strong nails. Black nails are preferred.

Hindquarters—Strong, full, well developed and well angulated. Legs short, muscular and straight when viewed from behind. Feet as in front.

The hindquarters are straight with the hock not being turned in or out.

The hindquarters should be well angulated.

The stifle should have a good bend.



Coat–Double. Undercoat short, close, soft and woolly. Outer coat hard, straight and flat. 5½ inches long without extra credit granted for greater length. The body coat hangs straight down each side, parting from head to tail. The head hair, which may be shorter, veils forehead and eyes and forms a moderate beard and apron. The long feathering on the ears falls straight down from the tips and outer edges, surrounding the ears like a fringe and outlining their shape. The ends of the hair should mingle with the coat of the neck. Tail well feathered.



- Trimming of the coat is common under the tail and on the feet.
- A Skye's coat is the most distinguishing characteristic.
- The coat at the skin should be one overall color.
- Length of coat is, however, only one point, and however long the coat may be, if it has not quality, the dog will stand but a poor chance of a prize in close competition under a good judge.
- Its double coat has a long, hard outer coat, free of curl, and a soft, woolly undercoat.

Points must be very dark to black – no other coloration should be seen on the coat. No distinctive marking other than points on the ears, muzzle and tip of the tail should be evident.



Color- The coat must be of one over-all color at the skin but may be of varying shades of the same color in the full coat, which may be black, blue, dark or light grey, silver platinum, fawn or cream. The dog must have no distinctive markings except for the desirable black points of ears, muzzle and tip of tail, all of which points are preferably dark even to black. The shade of head and legs should approximate that of the body. There must be no trace of pattern, design or clear-cut color variations, with the exception of the breed's only permissible white which occasionally exists on the chest not exceeding 2 inches in diameter.

The puppy coat may be very different in color from the adult coat. Therefore, as it is growing and clearing, wide variations of color may occur; consequently, this is permissible in dogs under 18 months of age. However, even in puppies there must be no trace of pattern, design, or clear-cut variations with the exception of the black band encircling the body coat of the creme colored dog, and the only permissible white which, as in the adult dog, occasionally exists on the chest not exceeding 2 inches in diameter.

Permissible colors are Black, Blue, Cream, Fawn, Gray, Platinum and Silver.

Coats may have varying shades of the same color in the coat.

There should never be a trace of pattern on a puppy or dog. When evaluating the dog as a whole, coat color should be one of the last considerations.

Up to a 2" area of white on the chest on a mature dog is allowed. Regardless of a dog's body color, a darker color variation on the ears, muzzle and tail tip are preferred.

Its double coat has a long, hard outer coat, free of curl, and a soft, wooly undercoat.



Gait

The legs proceed straight forward when traveling. When approaching, the forelegs form a continuation of the straight line of the front. The feet being the same distance apart as the elbows. The principal propelling power is furnished by the back legs which travel straight forward. Forelegs should move well forward, without too much lift. The whole movement may be termed free, active and effortless and give a more or less fluid picture.

Skye Terrier movement should be free, active, and effortless.

The tail should be carried level during movement.

The legs should move in a continuous line.

The rear legs power the front legs forward.

A Skye must be in movement to reveal its true conformation.



Temperament

That of the typical working terrier capable of overtaking game and going to ground, displaying stamina, courage, strength and agility. Fearless, good-tempered, loyal and canny, he is friendly and gay with those he knows and reserved and cautious with strangers.



We are quite ready to credit the Skye Terrier with gameness – all terriers have that more or less; his intelligence and sagacity we know are quite equal to that of any terrier, his devotion to his master untiring, while as a house and watch dog he has few equals. Although quick tempered, and always ready to resent an insult, he is not addicted to fighting. When two do quarrel, however, they fight quick and fierce; but their antagonism is not of so deadly a nature as several other terrier breeds. While he is very sensitive, and readily takes offence, he is easily kept in command, and makes an excellent companion and house dog. Being very proud and high spirited, chastisement should be but sparingly administered, harsh treatment being apt to sour his temper and spoil him for exhibition.

- A Skye Terrier should exhibit typical Terrier characteristics.
- A Skye Terrier should be bold, assertive and courageous.
- A Skye Terrier can be reserved until they become acclimated to their surroundings.

Disqualification

A Dudley, flesh-colored or brown nose shall disqualify.

AKC Skye Terrier Standard

Approved February 10, 1990

Effective March 28, 1990

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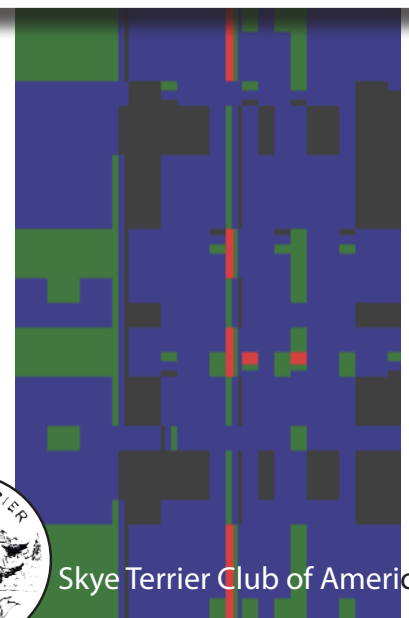
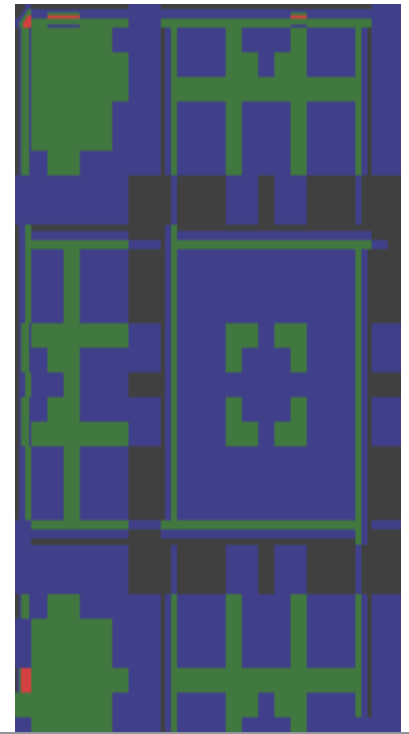
The foregoing description is that of the ideal Skye Terrier.

Any deviation from the previously described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

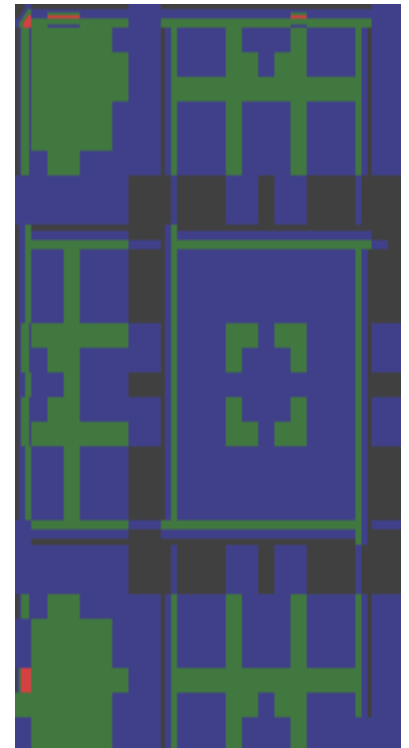
- A Skye short in ribbing and high on leg is faulty.
- Roach back and soft toplines are at fault.
- Skye Terriers that are shorter or longer than the 2:1 ratio are at fault.

Examining and Judging the Skye Terrier

- Because of the heavy coat, a judge must use hands when judging the Skye Terrier to determine correct structure and balance.
- A Judge must feel through the profuse top coat in order to feel if the rib cage is correct or not.
- The coat should be 5 1/2" long. No credit should be given for a longer coat.
- Rose ears are a common fault in drop-eared dogs. Judges must make sure to feel ear cartilage to determine ear structure.
- No preference should be given to prick or drop-ear dogs.
- When the dog is stacked in the ring you DO NOT want to see handlers pulling up on the collar to hide the dewlap, and to clean up the neckline. The dewlap is a characteristic trait of the breed and should never be hidden or tucked away.
- Also, when gaiting the Skye Terrier we want to see the dog gaiting of his own volition, and the handler should not be stringing the dog up, pulling tight on the lead therefore, distorting the dewlap.
- Grooming can hide virtues as well as hide faults. Because of this it is important for a Judge to know what they are feeling.



- When viewing the Gait from the front, the forelegs should form a continuation of the straight line of the front. The feet should be the same width apart as the elbows.
- When evaluating the dog as a whole, coat color should be one of the last considerations.
- Ask the exhibitor to pull the “fall” back from the eyes so that the Skye can see you.
- When examining the forequarters and chest area, at least three fingers should fit under the chest between the front legs.
- Hare Feet should be pointed straight ahead. The feet will be generally visible, however it is still important to feel down the length of the front legs to the feet to be confident that the feet are straight. The rear feet should be equally straight.
- Feel for well sprung ribs. The ribs should not be slab sided.
- Feel free to have the dogs reset. Often times when stacked, some Skyes will stand with their rear legs under them. Having them reset will give you a more correct view.
- If you determine that you need to re-examine the Skye, place the dog back on the examining table where, for the most part, they are used to being examined.



Authors references:

Skye Terrier Club of America–Judges Education Program
Skye Terrier Club of America–A Skye Terrier Primer for Breeders, Fanciers and Judges–Sandra Goose Allen
The American Kennel Club Video Series–The Terrier Group
Judges Handbook of Breed Standard Analysis–Robert J. Berndt
The Skye Terrier Handbook /1990
The Skye Terrier Book–Anna Katherine Nicholas



Age comparison



four weeks



five weeks



seventeen weeks



five months



seven months



twelve months



twenty four months



Our Ideal Skyes

as described by noted breeders and judges

Sandra Goose Allen

Stand back from the table, look at and evaluate the profile, outline and attributes of the Skye. Look at the length of the back, topline and overall balance.

Push the hair back with your hand to expose the head and eyes. The head should be long and powerful, moderate back skull tapering to a strong muzzle. There should be a slight stop. Bite that is either level or slightly overlapping.

Prick or Drop are the beautiful ears of this breed. Prick ears are medium in size and placed high on the skull. Drop ears are somewhat larger and lie flat on the head.

Eyes should be dark brown, medium in size. The nose is always black.

Arched neck, the level topline and the strong, well muscled loin - the tail should be a continuation of the topline. The shoulders should be well laid back with tight placement at the elbows. You should feel the substantial and sturdy bones of the legs. The chest should be deep and broad with well-sprung ribs and depth of chest extending approximately to point of elbows. The deep brisket is well filled. Straight front legs should curve slightly around the chest.

The hindquarters should be well-angulated, muscular, and straight with well bent stifles and well let down hocks.



Feel the texture of the coat. It should be double, hard, straight and flat.

The Skye shows in all of its beauty on the ground. The legs should precede straight forward. The dog should have good reach in front and extension behind.

He should move with head high, smooth flowing, effortless with elegance. His topline should remain firm.

When the dog is coming toward you, you want to see two front legs and a powerful forechest. Going away, you want to see good angulation and powerful back legs traveling straight forward.

Judy Davis

In my minds eye, when I picture the perfect Skye, I see a dog who is, of course, long, low and level and of moderate size. A strong head with a perfect ear set sitting on a long arched neck that fits smoothly into well laid back shoulders. Perfectly level topline, whether standing or gaiting, tail held out as an elongation of the topline when moving. The look is of strength and

elegance together but without coarseness. Beautiful long lank hard coat. A strong driving rear that allows the viewer to see the pads of the rear feet. The differences in the sexes should be apparent. Masculine dogs and feminine bitches. My ideal Skye is sound in mind and body, a pleasure to be around.

Pat Flanagan

For me the Skye Terrier must be a large dog in a small package. Though he only stands 10 inches at the shoulder and his body measures twice its height in length, as measured from the breast bone to over the rump, he must have bone and substance, without coarseness. The bitches should be only slightly smaller than the males and not lacking in bone or substance, but appropriate for her ½ inch less in height. Add to this a long flowing neck into a well

Walter F. Gooman

The standard of perfection of any breed is a subjective interpretation. It is how one person pictures a breed's written ideal. As a breeder of Skye Terriers for fifty years, I will attempt to keep this article objective. In general terms this is how I view Skye Terriers.

Anna Katherine Nicholas is a good friend of Skye Terriers and the author of two fine books about the breed. She feels the key words in judging are type, balance, style, soundness, and condition. "The ability to understand, recognize, and evaluate these qualities is essential to judge," she says, and I agree with her completely.

Type is breed character. It is the combination of distinguishing features which add up and make the individuality of a breed. Skye Terriers are long and low and their breed type can be abused by fanciers. Type should not be a matter of personal preference, but an adherence to desired breed characteristics as stated in the Standard. There are variations in size or bone, but subsequently type should remain constant. Those Skyes that adhere closely to the written word are obviously nearer to correct type.

Balance perhaps is easier to understand, since there are clear dimensions involved. A correct Skye is well-proportioned – length of head to length of neck, to length of back and tail and height. A Skye with correct proportions can look short-backed. A Skye who may be lower with a shorter neck and head, but with the same length of back as the latter dog,

laid back shoulder which continues to a level topline giving the Skye its elegance. His head and muzzle should be strong and powerful with no snippiness of muzzle or lack of fill under the eyes. On the move, a Skye's front legs should travel well forward with reach while the rear legs propel with drive. This movement should be fluid and never choppy or stilted. The overall appearance should be one of balance.



is unbalanced. Skyes can be too long as well as too short. Usually a properly proportioned dog stands out because of correct balance.

Style becomes the next ingredient. It comes from that proper balance combined with showmanship and personality. A dog of lesser quality but with showmanship tends to conceal many of his faults. Soundness is more difficult to describe. In dog show parlance, soundness refers to proper action or movement. The standard is quite specific as to shoulder placement and front assembly as well as the rear quarter. It tells us what to expect as the dog moves towards you or away from you or as you view it in profile. To me a proper moving Skye is not only sound but typey. In other words, a correct Skye is a sound Skye. Skyes should drive from behind. If the front seems unable to keep up, it means that the front assembly is not completely correct. Often the questionable movement of the topline is the give-away of labored action. Equally unpleasant is a lack of drive front he Quarter. This is every bit as unsound and not typey.

Robyn Hand

My ideal Skye Terrier would have a typey outline. Balance is the key. He would be long, Low, and level. He would have a long gracefully arced neck with nicely laidback shoulders. A combination of both bone and elegance with a powerful head and strong underjaw. Muzzle never snipy. Forearm curving slightly around the chest with legs short and muscular. Tight fitting

elbows. Paws not too east, west. Plenty of rear angulation and hocks would be straight and not too close together. I would like his tail to be carried as a continuation of the topline. My ideal Skye Terrier would move with a fluid motion and have plenty of reach and drive action.

Elaine Hersey

My ideal Skye Terrier is a picture of strength without coarseness, and elegance without refinement. The initial impression is the breed standard's requisite long, low and level outline, without question. Temperament is at first meeting somewhat aloof, even self possessed--never shy or aggressive. They choose whether to acknowledge an individual or ignore them. Correct coat texture is hard, but not so harsh that it breaks easily, nor so soft that it appears fluffy. Points on ears and muzzle are black, regardless of body coloring. Gender differences are apparent with a noticeable, not necessarily major, distinction overall. The head is substantial in both sexes, with a strong underjaw. The elbows are not out, nor the lower front legs greatly bowed. Fiddle fronts are not acceptable. The rib cage is long, past the mid-



way point of the spine; the loin is short and tight. Hindquarters are strong and muscular making for good drive from the rear, and hocks perpendicular. When moving freely the gait is confident and easy, the dog seems to float, covering ground effortlessly.

Karen G. J'Anthony

My ideal Skye Terrier presents a proper outline, long, low and level, of a length at least twice its height. A long arched neck flowing into a well angulated shoulder, level topline that is short in loin and a strong rear in balance with a proper front assembly are all critical elements. Bone is strong. Outer coat is harsh and straight. While this Skye may exceed the height description of the standard, overall balance of proportion and strength is preserved, plus it exudes

elegance. My ideal Skye carries no one characteristic in the extreme. On the move, my ideal Skye is confident, having an effortless and flowing gait, with good reach and drive, balanced front and rear. There is no hopping, labored or stilted gait. The topline remains level. This correctly constructed and coated Skye gaiting with tail carried as an extension of the topline presents a very lovely picture.

Karen Jennings

When I visualize my perfect Skye I see a strong elegant dog of great style and presence that embodies the hallmark that the breed is best known for: long, low, and level. I want to see a strong powerful head with keen expression, alert dark eye, proper ear set and an ample neckline to balance his generous length of body. I want a sound and well boned dog with deep chest, good layback and powerful hind quarters to afford an effortless reach and drive.

When moving this picture is enhanced by his beautiful flowing coat creating a graceful floating motion. My perfect Skye is the picture of elegance, but there is never a doubt he is a Terrier at heart and he will take your breath away.



Michael Koss

The ideal Skye Terrier is one of an elegant sturdy little dog covered in a long straight harsh outer coat draped down over the dog, the proportions are at least a 2 to 1 length of body to height ratio, strength of bone, length of neck, low to the ground, and a long level topline. This look should be maintained either standing or on the move. The tail should look like it is an extension of the topline when moving. Style and Elegance should not be confused with refinement—this is a strongly built dog and the Style and Elegance comes from balancing a long arched neck with a long level topline coupled with the coat which can give the illusion that the Skye Terrier is less than what is there. The breed comes Prick and Drop eared—neither should be given consideration over the other.

When approaching a Skye Terrier which should be done on the table, it is my rule of thumb to ask the handler to lift the veil of coat from the eyes so they can see me. Going over the head and preceding down one gets the sense of how the front assembly wraps around the oval shaped ribcage to the short straight as possible front legs. The neck should blend into well laid back closely knit shoulders on to a nice level topline. Rear should have angulation and

viewed from the rear no hocking. Tail appears to be an extension of the topline.

Skye's have color ranges within their color pallet. Creams can have black running through their coats and Blacks can have light grays running thru theirs.



They all can have color banding throughout their lives. These are all acceptable so I believe color really is a non issue.

Skyes have one disqualification and that is the pigment of the nose can not be Dudley, flesh colored or brown.

Michael J. Pesare

In the nearly 20 years that I have been involved with the breed, I have had the good fortune of working with an established line of Skye Terriers that I have spent countless hours studying. With that said, what do I look for in a Skye Terrier? What are the attributes that are important to me?

In my mind, strength is one of the hallmarks of our breed. When discussing the importance of strength, my mentor often said that “you must always be vigilant to preserve strength in your line because once it is lost, it is lost forever.” References to strength appear throughout our standard. However, our breed is the only terrier breed to have the word “elegance” in the standard. There is a point where strength as a virtue can also lead to coarseness which is not what we are looking for in a Skye. The challenge for Skye breeders is to find a balance between strength and elegance. I believe that the original working purpose of the breed and the wording of the standard tilt in favor of strength.

As a breeder, I am constantly striving to preserve lowness. A Skye lacking in the qualities of dwarfism thus lacks breed type. The challenge for all Skye breeders is to preserve lowness while at the same time always being vigilant not to lose angulation and soundness. A long, low, level Skye with sound movement is a joy to behold!

Given the working heritage of the terriers, heads are an attribute that define the breeds and I pay particular attention first to the head. A beautiful Skye head

must be long and powerful. The power comes from width of backskull, breadth of muzzle and strength of underjaw. I want a handful when placing my hand on the topskull. I also want to feel strength when getting my hand’s on the dog’s muzzle. The head must also be attractive to me with parallel head planes and well-placed ears, in either variety.

The strength of a Skye is also evident in its prominent forechest, hard muscle and broad body. Again, you want to have a handful when feeling the Skye’s forechest. When considering the breadth of body, you should be able to balance a cup and saucer at any point on top of a Skye’s back.

Our breed evolved primarily as a “digger” that went to ground to dispatch its subterranean foe. He also was used as a “squeezer” with the ability to work among the rocks of the Isle of Skye. A sound front assembly is vital with shoulders well laid back and with the upper arm the same length as the shoulder blade. Because the forearm curves slightly around the chest, a heavier dog may very well have more curvature than a more refined bitch. This slight amount of curvature is a characteristic of dwarfism.

Finally, when being judged, the first impression of a Skye is acquired by looking at the dog in profile. Balance is what makes our eye drawn to one exhibit over another in profile. The Skye standard calls for a dog that is twice as long in body as it is tall at the shoulder. A balanced dog with enough length of neck to balance the length of body.

The many facets of the breed is what makes the Skye Terrier so appeal-

ing to those who love the breed. Under that long, striking coat is a strong, hearty terrier with its working heritage intact.



Barbara Koseff Lubliner

I met my first Skye at the Westminster Kennel Club show in 1971. From that moment on I knew only a Skye Terrier would complete our lives and they haven't disappointed me. They are loving, loyal, clownish, courageous, very intelligent and loyal beyond belief. All my Skyes have been protective but have always been able to tell friend from foe and act sweet and

loving to the friends and stand at attention when they detect something in an individual that may be suspect. I have come to the conclusion after 30 plus years that there is nothing like a Skye Terrier. Each Skye is very individual with very individual personalities. When you are loved by a Skye it is the greatest compliment of all.

Carol R. Simonds

My ideal Skye would have a general long, level and low out-line (at least in the 2 to 1 proportion), with tail-set and carriage consistent with a dog that is happy to be in the ring. Its neck would be long enough for an elegant arch and the head would be long enough to avoid clunkiness. Dark eyes, and ears set at 11 and 1 o'clock complete that picture. When moving the front legs would be parallel to each other and the rear showing enough drive to view the pads from behind. My Skye's long, straight coat would have a human-hair texture, and would weigh about 28 pounds, and be a clear cream with black points.



Candace Way



When I think of my ideal Skye, I see an elegant outline with sweeping lines. A high held head and elegant, but strong neck, with a graceful curve into a level backline. And great length of body ending in a downward swept tail. But when moving, that tail is an extension of his backline giving an even greater illusion of length.

When I approach a Skye I first uncover the eyes to introduce myself and to see the beautiful brown eye color. A powerful head and substantial muzzle that fits well in my hand. And gracefully held ears with fringing.

The body must be felt for bone, depth, muscle tone and rib spring. Also for the length of the ribbing which helps to maintain that backline.

The coat is the crowning glory. Long, hard and straight with undercoat. A rainbow of colors, one as beautiful as the next.

Unlike the rest of the terriers the whole Skye package is one piece, gracefully flowing with a powerful stride. Truly a sight to behold.

Laura Weber

In my opinion, it is all about proportion and balance. If everything matches and is in proportion and balanced, even a slightly larger or smaller Skye will work for me.

When I look at a Skye from across the ring I want to see a strong head, lovely arch of neck flowing into smooth shoulders and a strong level topline. They should look like a Skye. By this I mean that the proportions of head, body, length and height should be that of a Skye without any appearance of being boxy or tall or weak.

With the Skye Terrier head, again, proportion and balance are my key words. The length and width of skull and muzzle should be in balance to each other and be in proportion to the body. Your hands on either side of the head should form a nice “pie” wedge with the length of skull and length of muzzle equal and the planes of each parallel

A strong forechest and some space between the front legs is important and can be easily measured by run-

Janet Weiss

1. Good health in mind and body.
2. Balance in conformation. Neither too small or large. A body structure that allows the dogs to move smoothly with ease and comfort throughout its life. A good scissors bite, rather small eyes, stiffly pricked ears, and, in the case of drop ears, close to the head.
3. Temperament. While retaining a reserved and rather protective nature as outlined in the standard, a temperament that is biddable, very attached to its people but also willing to be comfortable with new things and greet all situations and people with good manners.

ning a hand down the chest and dropping it to the table so that your fingers are between the front legs.

Smooth shoulders with elbows tucked in - a length of rib long enough to carry the length of topline – a short loin and well angled rear – these all add up to a well constructed Skye Terrier.

But the proof is in the movement and this is probably most important to me. I want a picture that can move. A Skye that is pleasing to look at when standing, that can put it all together when in motion, shows me that what is under the coat is as good as what I see when it is stacked.

To see a well proportioned Skye Terrier in full coat reaching and driving around the ring with a seemingly effortless movement can take my breath away. When matched with a loving happy temperament, I don't think our breed can be equaled.



4. A coat that is both comfortable for the dog and practical for the owner. A good balance of under to outer coat with no wave or curl.

Observations from the past...

The head is massive and should measure about a half inch less than his tail, with an overall total of forty inches from tip of nose to tip of tail.

*Mrs. R. Percy Adams
Dog World August 1962*



*Skye Terriers I should like to own:
Glamour Miss Gesty
Merrybrae Manniken
You'll Do du Leuchar
Toby of Iradell
Glamour Yankee Doodle
Glamour Going Up*

*Mrs. R. Percy Adams
Dog World, March 1956*



Acknowledged as the most accurate description of a Skye Terrier is the following very old Scottish doggerel.

*Let your Skye stand nine inches
at shoulder Be twice and a half
that in length With a tail the
extent that his height is, And head
about half an inch less, Have his
undercoat cozy as lamb's wool,
His overcoat's hair like nag's
mane, Let him stand straight and
square on his four legs, Be strong
in his jaws and his teeth, Hazel
eyes, closely set, and detective,
Keen-scented and sagely acute;
He will dart at his foe like winged
arrow, And make as sharp work
and as short, Treat him kindly
as chosen companion Preferred
above every pet else; He will
know no man but his own master,
And listen to no stranger's voice;
He will cling to your couch when
left vacant, And keep wistful ward
o'er your tomb.*



The hallmark of a true Skye is a long lean head, with close high-set ears and a strong muzzle, great length of neck, with a long, low body, strong, short, straight legs, with feet pointing straight ahead.

*Mrs. R. Percy Adams
1955*



Size:

I have often been accused of unduly liking little ones, and equally often of preferring big ones. To both these criticisms, my answer is the same "I don't; I like them good."

*Sir Claud Alexander
Our Dogs, England*



Skye Terriers

a synopsis



Group: Terrier

Country of origin: Scotland

Original use: Working terrier

Function: Companion

Life Span: 12 to 14 years

Color: Black, blue, dark or light gray, silver, platinum, fawn or cream

Grooming: Weekly, using a pin brush and comb.

Height/Weight: The Skye Terrier breed standard calls for a male to be 10 inches in height at the withers and a female 9.5 inches. Today, most Skyes are slightly larger. Male Skyes weigh from 28 to 38 pounds, with females being slightly less.

Personality: Skyes are loyal and affectionate with those they know. Reserved and cautious when first introduced to strangers.

Trainability: Skyes are highly intelligent and train well using positive reinforcement.

Activity Level: Moderate

Known Health Problems: Skye Terriers are a relatively healthy breed.

Good with children? Yes, with children who are taught to interact with dogs. Very young children should always be supervised with any pet.

Good with other pets? Yes, when raised together. However, caution need be taken with very small pets that might be perceived by a Skye as prey.

National breed club:

The Skye Terrier Club of America,
Lynne Kuczynski Veazie
1215 Pennsylvania Avenue
Emmaus, PA 18049-3515
E-mail: stcase@hotmail.com
Website: www.stca.us



Skye Terrier Club of America